

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together, wherein the titanium oxide shell has a ratio of outer diameter (D) to thickness (T), D/T, of 50 - 5,000.

Claim 2. (Original) A fine hollow powder according to claim 1, wherein the titanium oxide shell has an outer diameter (D) of 0.1 - 5,000,  $\mu\text{m}$  and a thickness (T) of 1 nm - 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together, which comprises a step the steps of spray-drying spraying an exfoliated titania sol and immediately exposing the sprayed exfoliated titania sol to high temperatures for drying.

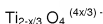
Claim 5. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol has a viscosity of 5 - 10,000 cP.

Claim 6. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol comprises a dispersion of delaminated particles represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.57 - 1.0.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) An exfoliated titania sol, which comprises a dispersion of delaminated particles represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.57 - 1.0.

Claim 8. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol comprises a dispersion of delaminated particles having a thickness of 0.5 - 1 nm, a width of 0.1 - 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and a length of 0.1 - 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 4, ~~which further comprises a step of heat treating wherein the drying temperature is at a temperature of 100° - 800°C after the step of spray drying.~~

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol is prepared by a step of producing an alkali metal titanate by mixing an alkali metal oxide or a compound decomposable to an alkali metal oxide by heating with titanium

oxide or a compound capable of producing titanium oxide by heating, followed by heating; a step of producing a layered titanate compound by treating the alkali metal titanate with an aqueous acid solution; and a step of producing an exfoliated titania sol by dispersing the layered titanate compound in a liquid medium in the presence of a basic compound.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 10, wherein the step of producing the alkali metal titanate comprises mixing alkali metal oxides represented by  $M_2O$  and  $M'_2O$ , where M and M' are mutually different kinds of alkali metals, or compounds decomposable to  $M_2O$  and  $M'_2O$  by heating with titanium dioxide or a compound capable of producing titanium dioxide by heating in a molar ratio of M/M'/Ti of 3/1/5 - 3/1/11, followed by heating at a temperature of 500° - 1,100°C.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 10, wherein the alkali metal titanate is a mixed alkali metal titanate in a layer structure of orthorhombic crystal, represented by the following composition formula:



, where M and M' are mutually different kinds of alkali metals and x is 0.50 - 1.0.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) A mixed alkali metal titanate in an orthorhombic layer structure represented by the following composition formula:



, where M and M' are mutually different kinds of alkali metals and x is 0.50 - 1.0.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 10, wherein the layered titanate compound is a compound in an orthorhombic layer structure represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.50 - 1.0 and n is 0 - 2.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A layered titanate compound in an orthorhombic layer structure represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.50 - 1.0 and n is 0 - 2.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A process for producing a thin flake titanium oxide powder, which comprises a step of pulverizing fine hollow powder.

Claim 19. (Original) A process according to claim 18, which further comprises a step of heat treating at a temperature of 100° - 800°C before and/or after the step of

pulverization.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic which comprises a fine hollow powder of the claim 1.

Claim 21. (Original) A seed particle for flow measurement, which comprises a fine hollow powder of the claim 1.

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together and the shape of which is a balloon form, wherein the titanium oxide shell has a ratio of outer diameter (D) to thickness (T), D/T, of 50 - 5,000.

Claim 24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell wherein laminated titanium oxide particles, having a thickness of 0.5-1 nm, a width of 0.1-30  $\mu\text{m}$  and a length of 0.1-30  $\mu\text{m}$ , are stuck together.